

Message Text

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S E C R E T BONN 12718

NODIS

DEPARTMENT PASS TO LONDON, PARIS AND PRETORIA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, SF, GW
SUBJECT: US-SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR TALKS

REFS: (A) STATE 170805, (B) PRETORIA 3645,
(C) PRETORIA 3652, (D) PRETORIA 3662

1. IN RESPONSE TO REF A, EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR ON JULY 11 BRIEFED FRG DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER RUTH AND VON ARZ, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR AND TECHNICAL DISARMAMENT ISSUES. WE LEFT A NONPAPER BASED ON REFS C AND D AND BRIEFED FROM SPEAKING NOTES DRAWN FROM REF D. SPEAKING NOTES WERE NOT REPEAT NOT HANDED OVER.

2. RUTH LISTENED WITH INTEREST AND AT THE END OF OUR PRESENTATION ASKED IF WE THOUGHT IT LIKELY THE SOUTH AFRICANS WOULD COME AROUND. WE REPLIED THAT FROM REPORTS WE HAD SEEN U.S. REPRESENTATIVES HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE RESULTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS.

3. RUTH ASKED IF THE U.S. SIDE ENVISIONED COMING TO AN AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH AFRICA WITHIN ANY PARTICULAR TIME FRAME. HE OBSERVED THAT TIMING COULD BECOME IMPORTANT,
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SINCE THE FALL UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY WAS APPROACHING AND SOME PRESSURES FOR A RESOLUTION ON SOUTH AFRICA COULD BE EXPECTED FROM THIS QUARTER. WE SAID THAT AS FAR AS WE KNEW THE U.S. HAD SET ITSELF NO TIME LIMITS BUT WANTED TO CAPITALIZE ON THE CURRENT MOMENTUM AND COME TO A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF ITS NUCLEAR PROBLEMS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. RUTH ALSO ASKED IF WE HAD BEEN KEEPING THE SOVIETS ADVISED ON THE STATUS OF OUR TALKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. HE RECALLED THE INTEREST THE SOVIETS HAD SHOWN IN THE KALIHARI FACILITY AND THEIR OBVIOUS CONCERN ABOUT SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR CAPABILITY IN GENERAL. HE NOTED THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT BE INCLINED TO SHOW SOME RESTRAINT ON SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR POLICY -- AT LEAST IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL CONTEXT -- IF THEY WERE AWARE OF THE DEGREE OF PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN MADE TOWARD A SOLUTION.

5. WE REPLIED THAT WE HAD NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION THAT THE SOVIETS HAD BEEN INFORMED BUT, BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE, WE THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE SOMETHING HAD BEEN SAID TO THEM. WE UNDERTOOK TO QUERY WASHINGTON ON THIS POINT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: ANY INFORMATION THAT WE CAN PASS TO THE FRG REGARDING U.S. CONTACTS WITH MOSCOW ON U.S.- SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR TALKS.
STOESSEL

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